

ONTARIO HOUSE HAS HOT DEBATE ON KAPUSKASING

Major Tolmie Says Conditions at Soldiers' Colony Were Disgrace

KALEIDOSCOPIC CHANGES

Hon. G. H. Ferguson Hopes Rev. Edgar Watson is Not so Reckless in Pulpit as in Legislature

(By Canadian Press.)

Toronto, April 8.—Debate on conditions at Kapuskasing was once more precipitated upon the Legislature this afternoon, when Major J. G. Tolmie, of Windsor, introduced a resolution calling for adoption by the House of the report of the commission which recently investigated the soldiers' settlement.

Premier Drury insisted that the Government be allowed to offer an amendment. The Government, he stated, was in agreement with the findings of the commission in the main, but did not wish to bind itself to all the recommendations made.

Charles MacRae, of Sudbury, expressed the opinion that two days' notice of motion should be required. The Speaker ruled this unnecessary, in view of the fact that the subject had already been before the House.

"I have no objections to discussing the matter, and feel that now is the proper time," declared Premier Drury.

Major Tolmie, after reviewing the establishment of the soldiers' colony, referred to conditions there as a "disgrace and a dishonor." On behalf of the returned men, he demanded that the issue be fairly faced. If the report of the commissioners was lacking in anything, he considered it was in criticism which those responsible for the prevailing conditions merited. He criticized the Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests for a remark attributed to the latter, to the effect that he could have filled the colony with French-Canadians, but that none were wanted there.

"The evidence does not show that the Deputy Minister was given an opportunity to reply to this charge," put in Hon. G. H. Ferguson.

Major T. L. Kennedy, of Peel, who was formerly connected with the settlement, defended the assistant superintendent of the colony from charges of evading military service. He stated that the official in question had lost an eye, and had several times volunteered for service, but had been rejected.

Rev. Edgar Watson, North Victoria, was called to order by Hon. G. H. Ferguson when he criticized what he termed "kaleidoscopic changes" in the systems of payment followed at Kapuskasing.

Mr. Watson stated that the contract system had first been adopted, and had given way to payment by the day.

"That is not so," declared Hon. Mr. Ferguson. "The contract system was not first employed. Don't develop into a demagogue in this House."

"I'm not developing into a demagogue," Mr. Watson retorted, with strong emphasis on the personal pronoun. "I am speaking the truth, and I will not accept advice from the member for Grenville on this matter."

"If your sermons were as reckless as your utterances here," Mr. Ferguson shot back—the remainder of his remark was lost in a roar of laughter.

"I should like to request the honorable member for Grenville to confine his remarks to this report, and leave my private affairs alone," Mr. Watson protested. With reference to Hon. Mr. Ferguson's connection with the Kapuskasing settlement, he expressed the opinion that Mr. Ferguson had been guilty of nothing more than an error in judgment.

CENSURE AND SYMPATHY.

"The late Government is deserving of some censure and a good deal of sympathy," observed Andrew Hicks, the Government whip.

Zotique Mageau, Liberal member for Sturgeon Falls, expressed the opinion that the settlement had been administered in methods far from business-like.

M. M. MacBride, South Brant, expressed the belief that only one side of the case had been aired in the press. He asked for further light on complaints against the deputy Minister of Lands and Forests.

"If Kapuskasing was not fit for interned Germans, how much more disgraceful it was to put war-worn Canadians there," observed R. R. Hall, Parry Sound.

K. S. Stover, Algoma, contended that definite promises had been made to the soldiers. "And if you make a promise to a soldier, you had better come through with it," he warned. He demanded the dismissal of Albert Grigg, deputy Minister of Lands and Forests, whom he held responsible for conditions at the settlement.

LIQUOR BILL.

F. G. Sandy's bill to prevent short-circuiting of liquor, and to confine to the license board the power of importing liquor into Ontario, was introduced for its first reading.

Hon. G. H. Ferguson registered a protest. "If this bill is along the line that newspaper reports state, it imposes a duty, and consequently, cannot be brought in by a private member," he declared. "It should be a Government measure."

"The bill imposes no duty," Hon. W. E. Raney explained.

Hon. Nelson Parliament, Speaker, promised to rule on the point tomorrow. Meanwhile the bill was allowed to stand without receiving its first reading.

Hon. G. H. Ferguson inquired concerning a report in a morning paper to the effect that there would be no public sittings of the commission investigating the Department of Lands and Forests.

"There is no foundation for the statement," replied Hon. Beniah Bowman.

"Will the sitting be public?" demanded Mr. Ferguson.

"Certainly," replied Hon. W. E. Raney.

WELCOMES INQUIRY.

"So far as I am concerned," declared Mr. Ferguson, "I welcome the fullest investigation of the Department during the time that I had anything to do with it, it will be a re-

ref to me, when the investigation is completed and the affairs of the department revealed to the public. I am prepared to take full responsibility for my acts, while in charge, and I challenge any man, either in this House or outside, to make a charge which he can substantiate, of maladministration in any matter which came before me in that department."

The recommendations made in the report of the Civil Service Commissioner will be carried out, in the main, within the next year, Premier Drury stated, in answer to Thomas Marshall, of Lincoln. He explained that too large an outlay might be involved if all the recommendations were put into force at once, but that sums will be placed in the estimates, sufficiently large to cover the required increases, which will then be gradually adopted.

LIQUOR IMPORTATION.

The bill introduced by F. G. Sandy, of South Victoria, supplementing Dominion Legislation prohibiting the importation of liquor into Ontario, is calculated to render this province as nearly "bone dry" as rests within the power of the law.

The bill, which is to be known as the "liquor transactions act, 1920," provides that every person within the province of Ontario who, either by himself or his servant or his agent, transports or carries liquor within Ontario for sale or consumption within the province, or who delivers liquor to any person in Ontario for sale or consumption within the province, shall be guilty of an offence, and subject to the penalties provided by the Ontario Temperance Act. Any liquor transported contrary to the provisions of the bill may be seized and dealt with in the manner provided in the O. T. A.

The provisions of the O. T. A. respecting offences, penalties and punishment, and the enforcement of the act, shall, so far as are applicable, apply to the Liquor Transactions Act.

Specific mention is made that the act does not forbid sale, transportation or delivery of liquor for export from Ontario; transportation of liquor through Ontario, from any place out of the province to any other place outside the province; sale and delivery of liquor by or under the order of the Ontario License Board for any purpose for which the liquor may be lawfully sold, supplied, delivered until the provisions of the Canada Temperance Act and its amendments.

The act is to come into force on a date to be named by the lieutenant governor in council. The definition of liquor is the same as in the Ontario Temperance Act.